THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) There was no case of major communal riot in the State of West Bengal during the last two months. However, as per available information, there were 7 incidents of communal violence in the State on account of disputes over routes of religious processions; misbehaviour; descreation of religious objects; and miscellaneous petty issues.

Non-adoption of Pollution control measures by Distillery Industry

322. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRI SOHAN LAL DHUSIYA:
SHRI RAM CHANDRA VIKAL:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken by the Central Government to ensure that the distillery industry takes adequate pollution control measures; and

(b) the number of industrial and other concerns against which action has been taken by the Central and State Governments under the penal provisions of the Environment Protection Act during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) The effluent standards for distillery industries have been finalised.

Distilleries are required to instal necessary treatment plant within a time frame as specified by the concerned State Pollution Control Boards for individual units.

(b) The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 came into effect on 19-11-1986. So far notices under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act have been issued to 63 polluting units.

Forest cover in the Country

323. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRI SOHAN LAL DHUSIYA:
SHRI RAM CHANDRA VIKAL:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the total forest cover in the country during the last three years, year-wise, and what has been the pace of deforestation during this period;

(b) what is the total forest area in Andaman and Nicobar Islands and the extent of encroachment that has taken place there during the last three years;

(c) whether Government propose to allow more forest area for plantation and industries; and

(d) what measures are being taken by the Central Government to prevent further deforestation in the Islands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Extent of the forest cover, as well as the pace of deforestation, has not been assessed for the last three years. However, the Forest Survey of India is currently engaged in continuous monitoring of the forest cover in the country on a two-year cycle.

(b) The total forest area in the A. & N. Islands in 7171 Sq. Kms.

The extent of encroachment detected during the last three years has been 475 hectares.

(c) No Sir.

(d) The following measures have been taken by the Government to check deforestation:—

1. Afforestation of wastelands has been taken up.

2. Guidelines have been issued to the State Governments—

(i) to avoid clearfelling of natural forests and where such fellings are inevitable for restoration of crop or other silvicultural considerations, it should be restricted to areas not exceeding 10 hectares in the hills and 25 hectares in the plains.

(ii) to identify critical areas which require protection from felling of forests and need immediate vigorous afforestation.

(iii) to set apart 4 per cent of the geographical area as protection areas like wildlife sanctuaries, national parks, biosphere reserves etc.

3. Development of infrastructure and enforcement of legal provisions for the protection of forest.

4. Enactment of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 to check diversion of forest land to non-forest purposes.

5. Development of alternative sources of energy to replace fuelwood in domestic and commercial sectors.

6. Substitution of wood by alternative materials in packaging, railway sleepers and building construction.

7. Liberalised import policy for forest products.

8. Use of preservative treatment has been stressed to prolong timber life, leading to reduction in demand.

Value of Imports from certain Foreign Countries

324. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRI SOHAN LAL DHUSIYA:
SHRI RAM CHANDRA VIKAL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state what is the value of imports from Japan, the U.S.A., U.K. and West Germany during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): The value of imports from Japan, the U.S.A., U.K. and Federal Republic of Germany during the last three years are given below:

(Value : Rs. Crores)

Country	1984-85	1985-86 (R)	1986-87 (P)
(i) Japan	1240·02	1774·57	2555.17
(ii) U.S.A.	1700·59	2062·17	1963·01
(iii) U.K.	933·47	1250·59	1622.42
(iv) Federal Republic of Germany	1289·14	1543·31	1932.82

R : Revised
P Provisional
Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta.